IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant (s): Alain M. Sagnard, et al.

Serial No.: 10/037,942   Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: January 3, 2002   Examiner: Jane J. Rhee

For: BUILDING PANEL HAVING AT LEAST TWO PANEL DOMAINS OF DIFFERENT AVERAGE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 6) mailed 26 August 2003, please reconsider the Claims in the above identified Application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-12 and 15-22 are pending and stand rejected in a Final action. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests withdrawal of the rejections. If the Office chooses to maintain the rejections, Applicant respectfully requests documented reasoning for the rejections in view of the following remarks in order to allow Applicant to weigh options as to how to proceed.

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of 3 October 2003 during which the Examiner further clarified her reasons for rejecting the present claims. As Applicant understands from the interview, the Examiner believes that "through", as used in the claims of the present invention (i.e., "extending through the thickness of the panel ..."), does not require extending the entire thickness but can mean extending through only part of the thickness. As a result, the Examiner finds the layered structures of Reeves et al. (US 5,916,672) as having a panel domain that

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